CAB-REFORM: MILE INDEX.—Mr. H. Von Uster, C.E., Putney, has invented and patented an ingenious instrument for measuring and indicating the length of ground run over by the wheels of carriages. The indicater has a face exactly like a clock, only the minute hand shews fractional parts, and quarters, halves, &c., of a mile, in place of minutes, and quarters, halves, &c., of an hour; and the hour hand takes up and accumulates the number of miles, of course, instead of the number of hours. The instrument, according the *Times*, which gives an interesting account of it, cannot be reached or tampered with either by driver or passenger; the same authority expressing surprise at the nicety of the result, ascertained by trial. As truly observed, a reform in our cab system has become one of the recognised wants of city life, and the first great step in this direction must be in the passenger himself possessing an effectual check upon overcharge. The parties most strongly interested in such a reform, however, are, perhaps, the proprietors and drivers of public vehicles themselves, since it must often have occurred to our readers that a much greater aggregate amount (probably nearly double the present sum), would be received in fares every year by cabmen, if they would be content with their legal fare, and would receive it with civility.

COOKING OVENS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—It must be laid down as a general axiom that our modern cities have grown up to an incommensurate size and population, but the Solon or Lycurgus to legislate for (organize) these huge masses has not yet come. It may be stated, however, at once, that public cooking-ovens are but the necessary *complements* of public wash-houses; as it stands to reason, that while the poor but industrious housewife is occupied in her cleansing avocations, the other parts of the household must, necessarily, come to a stand-still; provided the above accommodation be not added (somehow) thereto. It is also to be taken into account, that while one washing-house and one cooking-house, will (separately) occupy one area + another area, they combined will occupy, say only one + one half, and the same will be the proportion of the expense of building, firing, lighting, nay, superintendence. It is nearly useless to observe, that at a cooking-oven the necessary vessels, as tin pans, &c., are to be met with, so much so, that if the poor but industrious journeyman wants to get a meal at cost price, he has nothing to do but to purchase the meat and bring it to the oven.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.—The award of the Royal Medal in physiology for 1845, having caused much commotion and discontent, a special general meeting of the fellows will be held on the 11th of February, with the view of removing the cause of discontent, if possible. Lord Northampton has issued cards for four conversazioni as usual, on February 13th and 27th, and March 13th and 27th.

ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN.—At the next meeting of this association, to be held on Wednesday, a paper will be read by Mr. Robert Kerr, on "Architectural Education, and the proposed establishment of an Architectural Society, for the benefit of those connected with the profession in the capacities of student and draughtsman."

THE SOANE MUSEUM.—It may be interesting to some of our readers to know that the season during which Sir John Soane's Museum is open to the public commences on Tuesday, the 2nd of February, from which day, to the last Tuesday in August, it may be viewed by application to one of the trustees, or at the Museum.

ISLE OF MAN GRANITE.—A new quarry has been discovered at Foxdale, Isle of Man, whence granite has been already shipped for Birkenhead, where it is to be used for the new docks now constructing there, and whence it might have a clear, direct, and rapid transit by rail to the metropolis itself.

BRONZE STATUE OF LORD AUCKLAND.—The casting of a large portion of this work took place on Saturday, at the studio of Mr. Weekes, in Pimlico. The casting is said to be perfectly successful.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

During the ensuing Week.

TUESDAY, Feb. 2nd.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd.—Society of Arts, Adelphi, 8 P.M.: Association of Architectural Draughtsmen, 33, Southampton-street, Strand.

THURSDAY, 4th.—Royal Society, Somerset House, 6½ P.M.; Society of Antiquaries, Somerset House, 8 P.M.

FRIDAY, 5th.—Archæological Institute, 25, Great George-street, 4 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*P. P.*" (Burr.)—Write to Mr. James Simpson, Edinburgh. We have had no experience of the "Interaco" he advocates (qy. *Internaco*), but are disposed to think it a valuable material.

"*W. H. L.*" shall appear.

"*E. C. S. B.*"—Ditto.

"*B. D.*"—Put the accounts into the hands of a respectable architect.

"*The Morgan Testimonial.*"—We are asked to say that the gentlemen who obtained the second premium should be described as Messrs. Haunes and West, architects, of Southampton, not builders.

"*C. L.*"—We will endeavour to call at the *Atelier*.

"*A Subscriber.*"—We cannot undertake to supply valuations through our corresponding columns. The premium would be regulated by the custom of the diocese.

"*Student.*"—Mr. Dollman, 27, Mornington-place, has commenced giving instruction in perspective and architectural drawing.

"*Subscriber.*" (Revesby.)—We believe Mr. Lamb's view is not published, but Mr. Weale, Holborn, could probably obtain it.

"*Subscriber.*" (Leicester.)—We shall be glad to see the remarks.

"*C. F. C.*"—An angle chimney may be built on a stone landing or iron girder. If the cottage has a basement, a chimney may be built on brick, stone, or iron corbels, in any part of the room.

"*Subscriber.*" (Beds.)—Tredgold's Carpentry.

"*W. D. L.*"—The Temple of Erecthens is called "The Erectheium."

"*Constant Reader.*"—The whole width of intended line must be kept within the "limits of deviation" marked on the plan.

Next week.—"Amateur," "A Builder," "G. S. P." "Young Architects of England."

Received.—"R. W. A." "J. R." "G. R." "J. D." "J. W." "H. C. T." "E. and J. D." "M. O'C." "G. B. W. T." "Alpha."

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

NOTICE.—Covers for Volume IV. of THE BUILDER, may be obtained at the Office, 2, York-street, price 2s.; or the publisher will bind sets at 3s. each.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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TO BE SOLD, a Subscriber's Copy of Horwood's Plans of the Cities of London and Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, and parts adjoining, shewing every House, and the Boundaries of the Parishes; Thirty-two Plates, Bound, Coloured, and in Good Condition.—May be seen and price obtained at Mr. DANNS, Bookseller, 59, Cornhill.

THE ART-UNION JOURNAL, for February, contains Three Engravings on Steel, and above Sixty Engravings on Wood, with a variety of Articles useful and interesting to the Artist, the Amateur, the Manufacturer, and the Artisan. Among the leading subjects considered and treated are the following:—The Picture Cleaning in the National Gallery—Demidoff's House Manufactory at Paris—Midsummer Eve, by Mrs. S. C. Hall—The Living Artists of Europe—Industrial Art in France, by Dr. Cooke Taylor—The Gallery of the Earl of Ellesmere &c. &c.; with Intelligence concerning Art in Continental States, the Provinces, &c.; and Notices on the various topics of the month.

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"The Builder," Nov. 7, 1846.

THE BUILDER'S FRIEND.—Under this title Mr. H. Fitzherald has published a table, which cannot fail to be useful. It shows in one line the relative prices plank, deals, battens, and timber, bear to each other, from 2d. to 42s. the hundred, so that on looking at it, any person about to build will easily discover which is cheapest for him to buy. The information is given in a concise form, so as to fit the pocket-book.

"Herapath's Journal," Nov. 28th, 1846.

THE BUILDER'S FRIEND.—We have received a copy of a useful little Manual, under this title, that ought to be in the hands of *every* one in the Building business. It shews at one view the relative prices plank, deals, battens, and timber bear to each other, and will save an immensity of calculation.

"Sunday Times," Dec. 6th, 1846.

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